Projects included in AIBP and falling in above categories are eligible for 90% grant under AIBP. New projects which could be included in AIBP as per guidelines of the programme and falling in above category are also eligible for 90% grant.

In addition, the projects selected as Nationa Projects as per following criteria are also eligible for 90% grant of project cost of irrigation and drinking water compontents subject to working out the mode of financing in consultation with the Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission;

(i) International projects where usage of water in India is required by a treaty or where planning and early completion of the project is necessary in the interest of the country.

(ii) Inter-state projects which are dragging on due to non-resolution of inter-State issues relating to sharing of costs, rehabilitation, aspects of power production etc., including river interlinking projects.

(iii) Intra-state projects with additional potential of more than 2,00,000 ha. and with no dispute regarding sharing of water and where hydrology is established.

Any project which is having investment clearance of the Planning Commission irrespective of river/river basin could be included in the AIBP as per guidelines of the Programme in force. The outlay for Eleventh Plan for AIBP is of Rs. 39850 crore.

Level of ground water in Bundelkhand

616. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ground water level is going down in Bundelkhand region and a famine like situation is developing there;

(b) if so, what are the measures, plans to save the people and also the cattle; and

(c) whether the situation has gone out of control or there are hopes of saving the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) As per information received from Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and Ministry of Agriculture, fall in the ground water level has been observed in some parts of Bundelkhand region. The measures taken to arrest the decline in ground water table include construction of percolation tanks, roof top rain water harvesting structures. Relief measures have also been taken in the drought affected areas.

Fund for Water Bodies in Rural Areas

617. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD: will the Miniter of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of fund being made available to the State Governments/agencies for rehabilitation/renewal of minor water bodies in the rural areas of the country;

(b) whether the said scheme has been operationalised at the national level;

(c) if so, whether Government proposes to carry out a survey of minor water bodies on a national level and allocate funds for their revival so that the problem of potable water and water for minor irrigation purposes can be solved; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY, PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) Ministry of Water Resources, Government of

India approved a Pilot Scheme *viz.* National Project for Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies directly linked to Agriculture in January 2005 at a cost of Rs. 300.00 crore to be shared by the Centre and State in the ration of 3:1 for the remaining period of Tenth Plan. Under the scheme, project proposals in respect of 1098 water bodies for 26 districts in 15 States were approved at a cost of Rs. 299.92 crore.

Water Supply to Hubli-Dharwad from Mahadayi river

618. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka Government with a view to augmenting drinking water supply to Hubli-Dharwad, had proposed diversion of 7.56 tmc of water from the West flowing Mahadayi River and its tributaries of Malaprabha Dam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government of Goa has filed a case before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India against the above proposal of Karnataka on the ground that it would adversely impact the environment and ecology in its territory;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Centre has filed its affidavit in the Apex Court;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY, PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, The Government of Karnataka proposed diversion of 7.56 TMC of water from Mahadayi basin to Malaprabha basin through implementation of Kalsa and Bandurinalla schemes to meet the drinking water need of Hubli/ Dharwad cities.

(c) and (d) The Government of Goa in September, 2006 filed a Suit in the Hon'ble Supreme Court praying for setting up of Water Disputes Tribunal for adjudication of the Mahadayi River Water Dispute and an Interlocutory Application (IA) for stay in construction activities by Government of Karnataka.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The affidavit contains the stand of Ministry of Environment and Forests and Planning Commission in this regard which is given in the Statement, (*See* below).

(g) Does not arise in view of above.

Statement

STAND OF MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS:-

[I]. That the Prior approval of the M/o Environment & Forests [Central Government] is required under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 to carry out any non-forestry activity on forest land (including the area as per the widened meaning given to word 'forest' by this Hon'ble Court in order dated 12.12.1996 in WP(C) No. 202 of 1995 in so far as applicability of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is concerned).